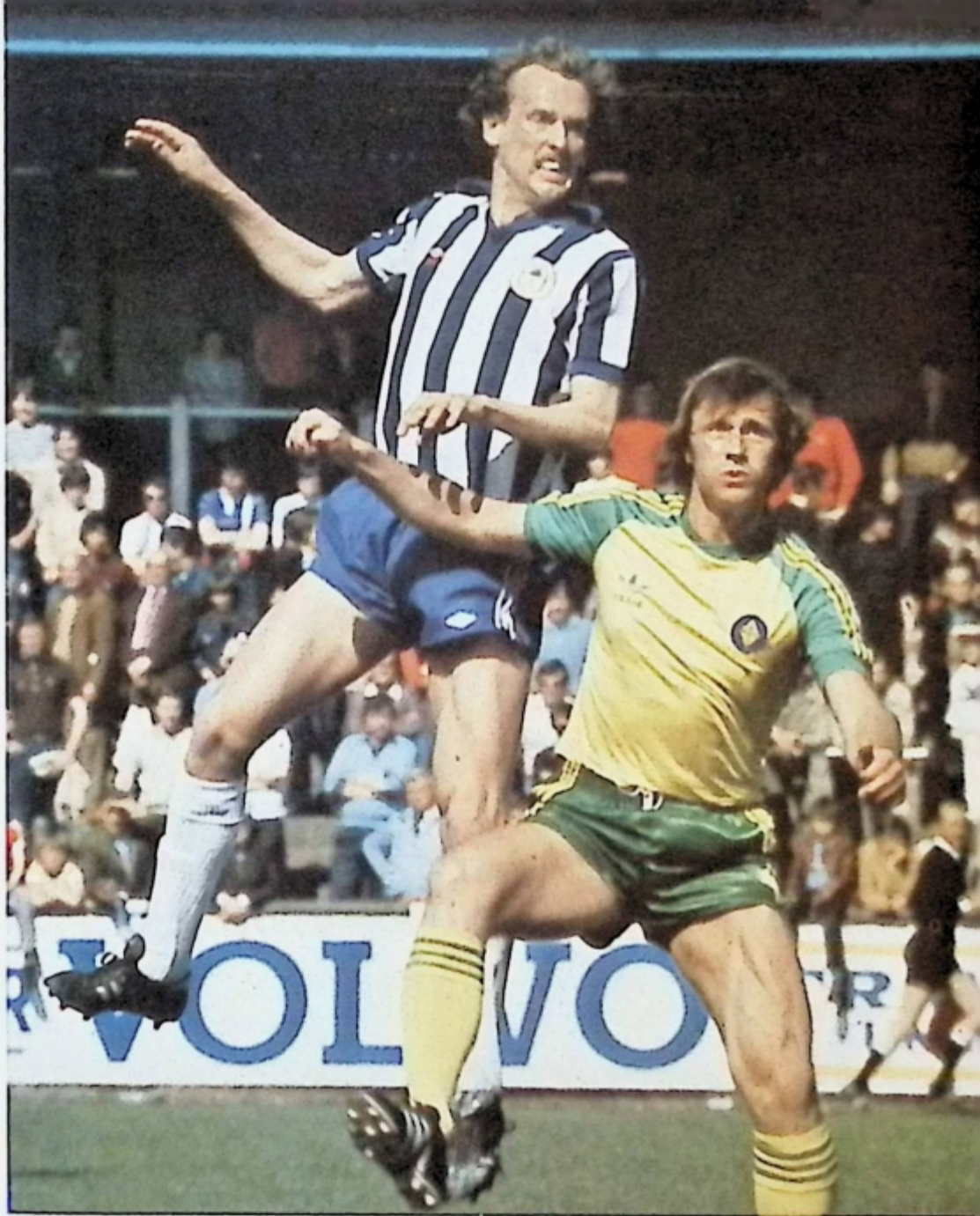


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Tuesday, 11th May, 1982 — Kick-off 7.30 p.m.
JOHN BROWN TESTIMONIAL
WIGAN ATHLETIC -v- BOLTON WANDERERS

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**THANKS...
FROM
JOHN BROWN**

GOOD EVENING ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to my testimonial game.

Testimonial matches take a great deal of organising and arranging, and I am indebted to many friends for their help.

I would like to thank the board, the players and the staff at Lakes for putting on the game, the Bolton Wanderers club for providing the opposition, the match officials, my testimonial committee - Eddie Birchall, Cyril Edensor and Paul Wilson, and special thanks to all the supporters for turning out for me.

I have been a member of Lakes at Wigan Athletic, and I have made many friends in the team.

I will miss the special atmosphere at the special atmosphere at Wigan Athletic, but I look forward to meeting all my friends in and around Wigan in the future.

Cheers.

John Brown
John Brown

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JOHN BROWN — A true professional

JOHN BROWN is the epitome of a real professional. That's the ultimate accolade Wigan Athletic chairman Freddie Pye gave the Bradford born goalkeeper this week. Freddie said: "John's a model professional and if all the players in the game followed his example it would only do good for soccer in general."

"He's been dedicated to his job in the game as long as I have known him, which is many years. "In fact he was at my old club Stockport County when I recommended him to Ian McNeill, then manager of non-League Latics."

"He's a tremendous player and a shining example to all youngsters coming into the game."

A goalkeeper with a big heart. That's how Wigan Athletic player manager Larry Lloyd described John Brown. Larry pointed out: "John has been frightened of nothing that came at him. His courage was unquestionable, his ability outstanding and his dedication to the game tremendous."

"Since I've been at Springfield Park, I've come more and more to admire his professional approach to the game. It is sad to see him retiring, but I am sure he will make as much a success in his new career as he has in soccer."

"His activities for the club off the pitch, such as they way he has helped out pupils at Mere Oaks Special School, show that John was a lot more than a goalkeeper. His heart has always been in the right place and the professional game will miss him greatly."



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THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES JOHN

by HAROLD ASHURST, of the WIGAN OBSERVER

I HAVE two outstanding memories of John Brown in a Wigan Athletic goalkeeper's jersey. The first stretches back some six years when Latics, still in non-league, were playing at Gateshead in a Northern Premier League game. Things were not going well for the team at that time and at the end of the season they finished well down the Northern Premier League. They lost that particular game 2-0 in front of less than 300 people but John was there, shouting, coaching, still giving 100 percent, whatever the situation.

The second memory is much happier. The place was Stamford Bridge, Chelsea, the occasion, and FA Cup Third Round match. Wigan were a goal up but Chelsea, then leading the Second Division were pressing hard for the equaliser. A cross came over from the right, the Latics defence missed it and the ball fell to Clive Walker, barely five yards out and with an open goal facing him. Walker shot and a goal seemed certain — that is until Brown appeared from nowhere to turn the

ball round the post for surely what was the save of his career.

It was certainly an important save, because it earned Latics a Fourth Round trip to Everton and a payout of over £30,000.

The point of my story is that in these days of so called greedy footballers it must be remembered that for every one of these there are half a dozen John Browns.

Players who give of their best whatever the situation, whether it be in front of hundreds at Gateshead or 53,000 at Goodison Park.

Since he was signed on a free transfer in 1975 by Ian McNeill, John Brown has been a credit to the club. His bad games can be counted on one hand, his good ones too numerous to mention. To talk of John being reliable would be like saying Shakespeare wrote some nice plays — it is a gross understatement.

All the best John, and well played.

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BOLTON WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB - SEASON 1981/82

Back Row: (Left to right) Mike Bennett, David Kay, Barry Taylor, Wayne Foster, Brian Atherton, John Thomas, David Hoggan. **Middle Row:** Charlie Wright (Coach), Peter Nightingale (Physio), Neil Berry, Chris Thompson, Peter Nicholson, Dennis Peacock, Simon Farnworth, Jim McDonagh, Gerry McElhinney, Paul Jones, Ian Brennan, George Mulhall (Manager), Walter Joyce (Coach). **Front Row:** Dusan Nikolic, Mike Carter, Alan Gowling, Len Cantello, Neil Whatmore, Peter Reid.

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ON BEHALF OF PEMPS DISCOTHEQUE, WIGAN**

*WISH JOHN BROWN GOOD LUCK WITH
HIS TESTIMONIAL*

*The officials of the
WIGAN AMATEUR LEAGUE
would like to wish John Brown
every success for his testimonial*

BOLTON Wanderers are currently enduring one of the less auspicious periods in their long history, but as founder members of the football league, and renowned cup fighters over the years, there is no doubt they are one of the game's great names.

The Trotters have never actually won a First Division League Championship, but in the 94 years since their foundation in 1888, they have spent only two seasons outside the First and Second Divisions.

Bolton have won the FA Cup on four occasions, the last being the final against Manchester United in 1958. That game will long be remembered for the legendary Nat Lofthouse's charge on United goalkeeper Harry Gregg, just as Bolton's third losing cup final against Blackpool in 1953 is familiar to all as the "Stanley Matthews final".

As relative newcomers to the football league, Wigan are privileged to entertain founder members Bolton for John Brown's Testimonial. There is another link however — Bolton were the opponents when John made his football league debut for Preston, and the goalkeeper has an old score to settle tonight, for Preston lost 4-2!

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THE JOHN BROWN STORY

by Clive Carter (Wigan Reporter)

JOHN BROWN is a Yorkshire lad, born and bred in Bradford, but with the brief exception of a month's loan at Leicester, all his professional football has been played on the Lancashire side of the Pennines.

Preston and Stockport were John's clubs before Wigan, and John played under manager Bobby Charlton at one and chairman Freddie Pye at the other — both of whom eventually followed him to Springfield Park.

Born in Greengates, Bradford, in December 1947, John played goalkeeper for his junior and secondary school teams, before attracting the interest of professional clubs while playing for Bradford Schoolboys.

"I was offered terms by Burnley, Sheffield Wednesday and Huddersfield, but I refused," John said. "I had the idea that I wanted a trade, and I started an apprenticeship as a joiner instead."

John couldn't resist a trial at Preston North End in 1964 however, and when the club offered him terms, he signed on the same week.

That year John watched Preston lose in the FA Cup Final to West Ham, but the keeper's greatest memory came a few months later, when as a 17 year old youth team goalkeeper, he was called on to make his first team debut.

"Appropriately enough the opponents were Bolton, and we lost 4-2," John recalls. "They had this up and coming young striker called Wyn Davies, and he scored a hat-trick."

John spent most of the 'sixties as understudy to Alan Kelly in the Preston goal, but took over in 1972 for two first team seasons.

John was released from Preston during Bobby Charlton's brief spell as manager, to be replaced by Roy Tunks, now of course a Springfield Park favourite himself.

Stockport County snapped him up, for a 35 match loan period in 1971, John had so impressed the Edgeley Park crowd he was voted player of the season.

"I didn't actually get the award, they said being on loan disqualified me," John said. "I was glad



they remembered me though."

In 1976, John, displaced in the Stockport team after an injury, took up the offer of a free transfer to non-league Wigan Athletic.

It looked like a backward step, but John had been impressed by the potential of the Wigan club, and his judgement was vindicated two seasons later, when Latics joined the league at last.

John is modest about his achievements, but there is no doubt that his solid performances as Wigan's last line of defence provided a rock for the team to build on, both in the drive to gain league admission, and the subsequent drive for promotion.

"I'm proud to have been associated with what will one day be a top flight club," John said. "I'd like to look back in a few years and say 'I was there at the start of it all'."

JOHN BROWN - CAREER STATISTICS (LEAGUE)	
Preston North End	67 appearances
Stockport County	41 appearances
Wigan Athletic	92 appearances

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TEAM CHECK

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**WIGAN
ATHLETIC**
(Royal Blue & White Stripes)

- 1 John Brown
 - 2 John McMahon
 - 3 David Glenn
 - 4 Alex Cribbley
 - 5 Larry Lloyd
 - 6 Colin Methven
 - 7 Eamon O'Keefe
 - 8 Graham Barrow
 - 9 Les Bradd
 - 10 Peter Houghton
 - 11 Mark Wignall
- Subs: Jeff Wright,
Mick Quinn.

REFEREE:
Referee:
MR. J.B. WORRALL
(Warrington)

Commenced refereeing at 19 and graduated via the Warrington and District and then Cheshire Leagues to the Football League list. Was linesman in an FA Cup Quarter Final and in the Second leg of a European Championship Club Cup Semi Final in 1976. In 1977 he refereed the F.A. Challenge Vase Final, also lined a U.E.F.A. Cup Semi Final in 1980.

Refereed the 1981 FA Challenge Trophy Final, and the same year was appointed to the FIFA panel of referees.

A married man with two sons, he is a Works Accountant and interested in all sport and keeping fit.

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Red Flag Yellow Flag
Mr. M.J. Woodage Mr. K. Turnbull
(Warrington) (Warrington)

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WANDERERS**
(White and Dark Blue)

- 1 Jim McDonagh
 - 2 Steve Whitworth
 - 3 Paul Jones
 - 4 Mike Doyle
 - 5 Mike Bennett
 - 6 Chris Thompson
 - 7 David Hogan
 - 8 Peter Reid
 - 9 Jeff Chandler
 - 10 Tony Henry
 - 11 Alan Gowling
- Sub: Wayne Foster